



THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

St Michael and All Angels

Watford

ADVENT 1

2 December 2012

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Sung Eucharist, Fr Geoff celebrates and Martin Heath preaches. John Adams leads the intercessions.

Hymns: 28, 26, 32 and 31

Setting: Oldroyd

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and followed by a Bring-&-Buy Sale in aid of Christingle - please stay on.

Evening Prayer is in the Lady Chapel at 6.00pm

For your prayers this week:

The Church: Lay Canons at St Albans Abbey and Cathedral.

The work of USPG/Us with the Church in Bangladesh.

The Diocese of Kebbi in Nigeria, the Most Revd Edmund Akanya.

The World: The fight against people-trafficking and slavery.

The support of people with disabilities.

People suffering through climate change in Bangladesh.

The Community and Parish: Residents and Staff at River Court and Fairhaven.

Littlebury Children's Centre.

Our Toddlers' group.

The Ill and the Housebound: Especially Bruce Alexander, Jean and Robert

Caton. Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean

Crouch, Ben Heath, Jessie Hobby, Jenny Houghton, Trevor

Hutchinson, Audrey and Harvey Jaquest, Mary Kearns, Lesley

Kinch, Loretta Lynch, Jacqui Lyons, Maggie Maguire, Stella

Nicholas, Dorcas Ochola, Brian O'Riordan, Helen Perry, Myrtle

Powell, Christina and David Simon, Eric and Anne Wightman.

The Departed: Gerald Gibson.

Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal;

through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 33.14–16

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

SECOND READING I Thessalonians 3.9–13

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?

¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.

¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.

¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

GOSPEL Luke 21.25–36

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples:

25 ‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

27 Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory.

28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

29 Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; 30 as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.

31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

32 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34 Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life,

35 and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.

36 Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 7 December: annual sponsored sleepout at St Albans Abbey.

Saturday, 8 December: Performance of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, a Christmas Opera for Children and Adults, at 5 pm in Church. Further details in *Sword*

Saturday, 15 December at 7 pm South Oxhey Community Choirs will be giving a Christmas Concert in St Michael’s. **Members of the community choirs will be coming to our 9.30 service today 2 December with tickets for the concert.**

Sunday, 16 December at 6 pm St Michael’s Carol Service

Saturday 19th January 2013: The 100th Birthday of our Church! The Bishop of St Albans is coming to celebrate with us at 7.30pm on that day. Please put this date aside..

THIS WEEK

Mon	3	Dec	Toddlers' Group River Court Service NO Emmaus Course	10.00 - 11.30am 3.00pm
Tue	4	Dec	(Meeting of the Children's Centre Management Group NO Emmaus Course	12.30pm)
Wed	5	Dec	Mothers' Union Short Service Christmas Coffee Morning with mince pies and Bring-&-Buy Stall in aid of St Michael's Mothers' Union – all welcome	10.00am 10.30am-12 noon
Thur	6	Dec	Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) Fairhaven Rehearsal for Amahl Choir Practice	10.00am morning 3.00-6.00pm 7.00 - -8.30pm
Fri	7	Dec	Full rehearsal for Amahl	6.00-10.00pm
Sat	8	Dec	Preparing Christingles during morning AM AHL and the NIGHT VISITORS performance	5.00pm
Sun	9	Dec	<u>ADVENT 2</u> Holy Communion (Pres: Fr George) SUNG EUCHARIST: President: Fr Geoff and Preacher: Jamie Wareham CHRISTINGLE SERVICE in aid of The Children's Society (Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church Service for The Compassionate Friends	8.00am 9.30am 11.15am 1.00-5.00pm) 6.00pm

NOTICES

EMMAUS –The next meetings will be on 10th and 11th December in the Vicarage. It's not too late to join in come along (with sandwiches/buffet food) for the next meeting.

WE SHALL BE HAVING ANOTHER PARISH CHRISTMAS GREETINGS BOOKLET this year. If you would like to be included with your greetings to the parish and donation to Christian Aid, the details are on the 'signing up' table at the back of church. Any queries to Vicki Matthews.

LEPROSY MISSION – A reminder that we have a box at the back of church for used stamps, being collected on behalf of the Leprosy Mission. Perfect for all the stamps from your Christmas Cards!.

HELP NEEDED - Help is needed to sort and wash costumes for the Crib service. If you could help with this, please see Fr Geoff or Anne Eccleshall.

HELP NEEDED (2) –Can anyone help with making teas and coffee for the Toddlers Group on 10th and 17th December, 10.00am – 11/30am.

St Michael and All Angels PCC is a Registered Charity No 1132010